

**Sermon information assumes an abuse-free marriage, and does not apply to relationships with abuse or manipulative mental illnesses.**

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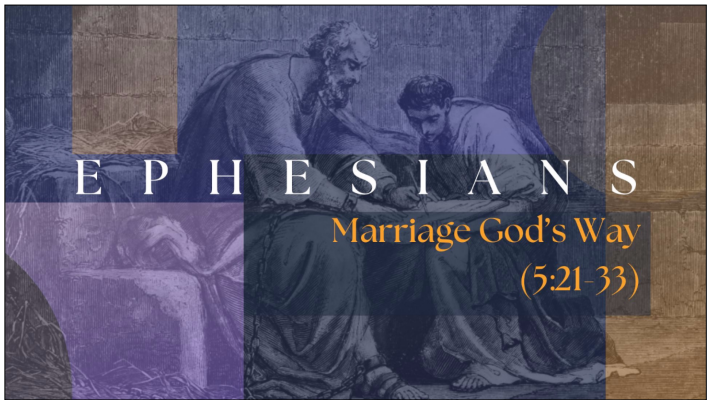
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**What is marriage?**

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SCRIPTURE

<sup>31</sup>“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and **the two will become one flesh.**”

Ephesians 5:31 (NIV)

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**Marriages** thrive when **commitment, connection, and communication converge** to reflect the image of Christ in every aspect of life.

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**Satan destroy marriages through simple, proven tactics:**

- **Breaks connection (Gen. 3:1)**
- **Distorts communication (Gen. 3:2-3)**
- **Sabotages commitment (Gen. 3:6-7)**

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**Modern dating now contributes to the disintegration of marriage:**

- **Hookup culture Breaks connection**
- **Playing games Distorts communication**
- **Fear sabotages commitment**

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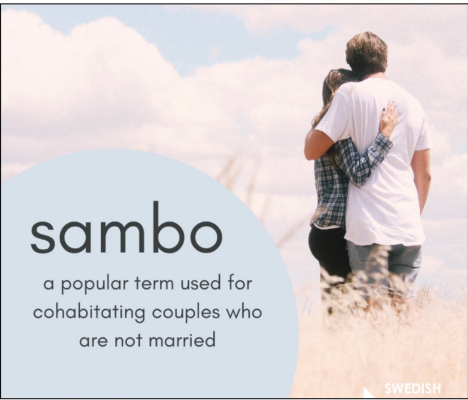
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**sambo**  
a popular term used for  
cohabitating couples who  
are not married

SWEDISH

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SCRIPTURE

<sup>21</sup>Submit to one another out of  
reverence for Christ.

Ephesians 5:21 (NIV)

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What is **submission**?

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## Submission VS Subjugation

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EPHESIANS

### Submit VS **Subjugate**

**Subjugate** – (1) to bring under complete control or subjection; conquer; master. (2) to make submissive or subservient; enslave.

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EPHESIANS

### Submit VS Subjugate

**Submit** (etymology) – late 14c. (1) place (oneself) under the control of another, yield oneself.

From the Latin **submittere**: "to yield, lower, let down, put under, reduce."

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**Submission is mutual**

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**God asks both husbands and wives to submit, but submission looks differently for each.**

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SCRIPTURE

<sup>33</sup>However, each one of you also must **love his wife** as he loves himself, and the wife must **respect her husband.**

**Ephesians 5:33 (NIV)**

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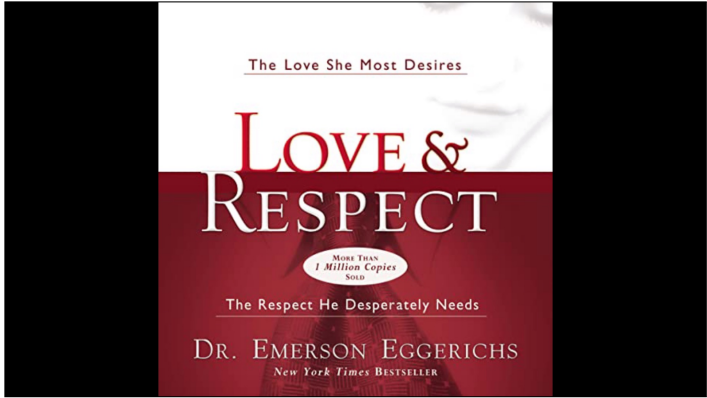
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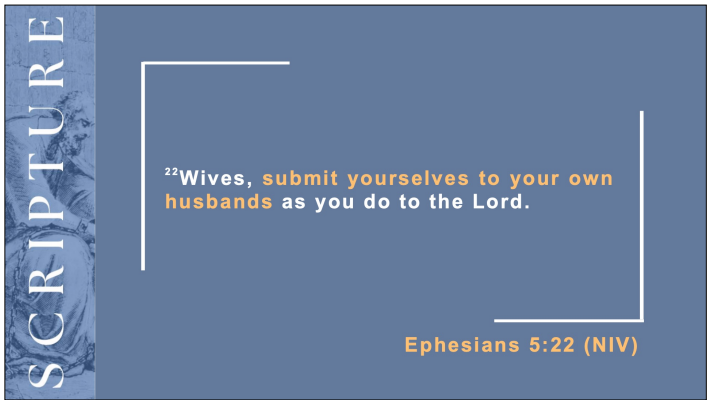
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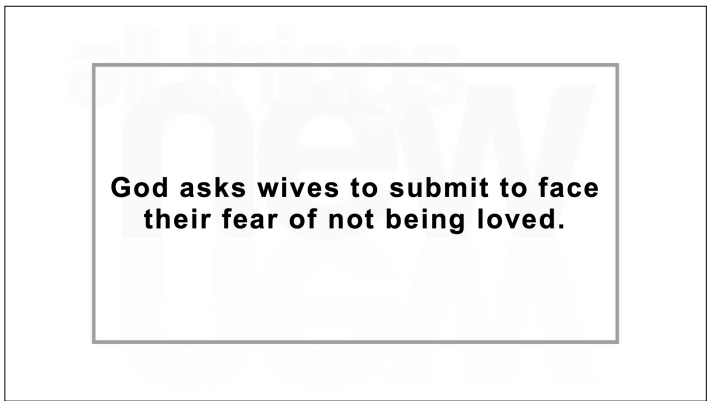
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<sup>31</sup>When the LORD saw that Leah was not loved, he enabled her to conceive, but Rachel remained childless. <sup>32</sup>Leah became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She named him Reuben, for she said, "It is because the LORD has seen my misery. Surely my husband will love me now."

Genesis 29:31-35 (NIV)

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<sup>33</sup>She conceived again, and when she gave birth to a son she said, "Because the LORD heard that I am not loved, he gave me this one too." So she named him Simeon.

Genesis 29:31-35 (NIV)

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<sup>34</sup>Again she conceived, and when she gave birth to a son she said, "Now at last my husband will become attached to me, because I have borne him three sons." So he was named Levi.

Genesis 29:31-35 (NIV)

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<sup>35</sup>She conceived again, and when she gave birth to a son she said, "This time I will praise the LORD." So she named him Judah. Then she stopped having children.

Genesis 29:31-35 (NIV)

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SCRIPTURE

<sup>25</sup>Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.

Ephesians 5:25(NIV)

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God asks husbands to sacrifice to face their fear of not being respected.

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<sup>19</sup>Lamech married two women, one named Adah and the other Zillah.  
<sup>23</sup>Lamech said to his wives, "Adah and Zillah, listen to me; wives of Lamech, hear my words.

Genesis 4:19-24 (NIV)

I have killed a man for wounding me,  
a young man for injuring me.  
<sup>24</sup>If Cain is avenged seven times, then  
Lamech seventy-seven times."

Genesis 4:19-24 (NIV)

### 3 Benefits of Practicing Submitting to One Another

EPHESIANS

1

**When we submit in marriage, we model Jesus' example of a servant.**

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SCRIPTURE

<sup>24</sup>Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

Ephesians 5:24 (NIV)

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SCRIPTURE

<sup>25</sup>Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up (died on the cross) for her.

Ephesians 5:25 (NIV)

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Who (Jesus), being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant...he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

Philippians 2:6-8 (NIV)

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EPHESIANS

2

When we submit in marriage, we communicate to our spouse, "you are valued."

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SCRIPTURE

<sup>23</sup>For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior.

Ephesians 5:21-33 (NIV)

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SCRIPTURE

<sup>28</sup>In this same way, husbands ought to **love** their wives **as their own bodies**. He who loves his wife loves himself.  
<sup>29</sup>After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they **feed and care** for their body, just as Christ does the church.

Ephesians 5:28-29 (NIV)

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SCRIPTURE

<sup>31</sup>“For this reason a man will leave his **father and mother** and **be united to his wife**, and the two will become one flesh.”

Ephesians 5:31 (NIV)

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EPHESIANS

3

**When we submit in marriage, we model the unconditional love of God to the world.**

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SCRIPTURE

<sup>31</sup>...and the two will become one flesh."  
<sup>32</sup>This is a **profound mystery**—but I am talking about Christ and the church.

Ephesians 5:31b-32 (NIV)

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Spouses graduate from **Ephesians 5 University** when our obedience to Christ in how we treat our spouse is unaffected by our spouse's behavior.

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